



Natural Resources Conservation Service
655 Parfet Street, Room E200C
Lakewood, Colorado 80215

August 25, 2008

State Technical Committee Member
Interested Party

Dear Committee Member/Interested Party:

For Fiscal Year 2009, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Colorado will focus Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP) funding on larger scale habitat developments that achieve the program goal of enhancing and protecting habitats for wildlife species experiencing significant population declines. Colorado NRCS is asking for written proposals from wildlife agencies and organizations, agricultural and environmental organizations, conservation districts, and other appropriate partners for project areas that will target specific priority habitats and wildlife species. If there are funds remaining after the highest ranked project proposals are funded, then a sign-up for individual applicants will be held.

Applications will be accepted for non-priority species and/or habitats but will be given a lower priority for funding. Habitat projects for low priority species may be submitted, however they are not encouraged.

Proposals that leverage NRCS and partner in-kind and/or financial resources to address WHIP priorities are encouraged and will receive higher consideration for funding. Please note that within funded project areas a Federal contract will be developed with the individual eligible landowners to implement all WHIP agreements.

Currently, the "Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008" WHIP rules are under development. However, it is imperative to distribute this Call for Proposals so project applicants and field staff can evaluate the needed/required resources.

Proposals should address and describe all factors of the evaluation criteria. The local NRCS District Conservationist must be consulted and co-sign the proposal package. **Proposals in either electronic or hard copy format are due at the NRCS State Office by close of business Monday, November 3, 2008, extended to December 1, 2008.**

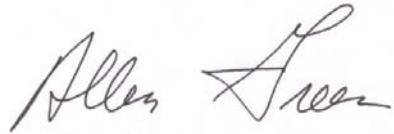
Electronic proposal submissions are encouraged. Send electronic submissions to: colakewood.nrcsprogram@co.usda.gov. Hard copies should be mailed to:

USDA – Natural Resources Conservation Service
655 Parfet Street, Room E200C
Lakewood, CO 80215
Attn: Tim Carney

The attached document lists the steps, the priority species and habitats, and the criteria that will be used to rank the proposals. Once a proposal is selected for funding the sponsor and the District Conservationist must develop a ranking system for the project.

If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact Tim Carney, Assistant State Conservationist for Programs, at (720) 544-2805.

Sincerely,



ALLEN GREEN
State Conservationist

Enclosure

cc:

Tim Carney, Assistant State Conservationists for Programs, NRCS, Lakewood, CO
Dollie Gonzales, Resource Conservationist for Programs, NRCS, Lakewood, CO
Terri Skadeland, Biologist, NRCS, Lakewood, CO
Colorado NRCS Area Conservationists
Colorado NRCS Area Resource Conservationists for Programs
Colorado NRCS District Conservationists
Darlene Jensen, Colorado Association of Conservation Districts, Woodland Park, CO
Cindy Lair, Program Manager, Colorado State Conservation Board, Lakewood, CO
Ken Morgan, Private Lands Habitat Program Coordinator, Department of Wildlife, Lakewood, CO
Bill Noonan, Partners for Wildlife, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Lakewood, CO
Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory Private Lands Watershed Biologists